

# NEWS RELEASE

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PORTLAND DISTRICT  
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**The SBA Portland District Office  
Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year  
*Tino Ornelas, CEO  
Ornelas Enterprises, Inc.***



*Tino Ornelas*

**Portland, Ore.** – SBA Oregon District Director, Harry DeWolf, announces that Tino Ornelas, CEO of Ornelas Enterprises, Inc., is the SBA 2008 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year for the NW region and the state of Oregon. Ornelas will receive his award at the Oregon SBA's Small Business Week Awards Gala May 22, 2008, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Portland, Oregon.

Celestino (Tino) Edward Ornelas was born January 5, 1945 in Florence, Colorado to parents who were also born in Colorado. His grandparents came to this country from Mexico in 1910. They settled in Colorado and became coal miners.

Ornelas joined the United States Navy in 1962 at the age of 17. His active duty included a full year in Vietnam. He served as radar technician until his honorable discharge in 1966 at the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> class petty officer and also served another four years in the inactive reserve until 1970. Once he was discharged from the military, Ornelas resided in Seattle, Washington. He met and married Joy Lynn Brewster and they had two children.

Ornelas began his private sector career with the Boeing Company in Seattle, WA before being hired by the Tektronix Corporation where he worked for twenty years. During this time he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in business from Marylhurst University. In 1991, Ornelas started his own company. As CEO of Ornelas Enterprises, Inc., his company specializes in electronics assembly and has completed work for major high tech and electronics manufacturing firms. When his business expanded and there was a need to hire additional employees, Ornelas made it a priority to hire qualified veterans and continues to do so to this day.

Ornelas also volunteers as a business mentor for the Portland Community College Small Business Development Center and has assisted veterans interested in starting and maintaining their own businesses.

During Ornelas' service on the Governor's Advisory Committee, he has been a strong and continuing voice for veteran owned small businesses, has championed the development of a State Veterans Small Business Enterprise program and has encouraged and assisted Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs and private sector business employees in attending veteran small business development seminars and conferences.

Ornelas has championed the development of a State Veterans Small Business Enterprise program and encouraged the awareness of PL 106-50: "The veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999."

As a result of Mr. Ornelas' work, a bill was introduced during the 2007 session of the Oregon Legislature to create the Oregon Veterans Business Enterprise program. The United Veterans Groups of Oregon sponsored the bill and members of the legislature passed the bill. The bill has the support of the Governor's Small Business Council, the nineteen Small Business Development Centers in Oregon, the Governor's Advisory Committee to the Director of ODVA and the United Veterans Groups of Oregon. 366,000 Oregon veterans are well served by the unselfish advocacy demonstrated by Ornelas.

Ornelas Enterprises has been honored with several awards including The Austin Family Business Award, Minority Business of the Year for the State of Oregon, the Performance Award from Intel Corporation and the Top One Hundred Fastest Growing Businesses 5 years running as listed in the Hispanic Business Magazine as well as the Top 10 National Entrepreneurs of the Year from Oregon Business Magazine.

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